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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-08-07

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE State Lands for Human Remains Reburials SB 673

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	*\$100.0	Nonrecurring	General Fund
	*Additional annual impact, please see narrative and tables		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY08	FY09	FY10	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
Total			*\$10.5	\$10.5	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB73a/HCPAC
 Duplicates SB581/aSIAC

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Cultural Affairs Department (CAD)
 Indian Affairs Department (IAD)
 Department of Finance & Administration (DFA)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 673 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to Department of Cultural Affairs Historic Preservation division for the purpose of designating and securing an unmarked burial ground on state or federal land for the reburial of unclaimed Native American human

remains and funerary objects in fiscal years 2008 and 2009. The proposed legislation enacts a new section of Chapter 18, Article 6 NMSA 1968 such that the “Reburial Grounds Act” is created.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the General Fund.

*Additional annual expenses estimated to occur with the enactment of this legislation include ongoing burial expenses of \$10.5 thousand (estimated cost of three-hundred dollars per re-internment * average annual number of human remains found needing re-internment (approximately 35 each year)). Other associated recurring expenses include security, which is a component of the proposed legislation. The security expense can potentially be mitigated through careful consideration of the location of the chosen site. Both the costs to secure and re-bury remains would not occur prior to acceptance and re-internment, and so are not included in this FY08 impact assumption. However, Senate Bill 673 mandates that the first re-internment will begin by July 1st, 2009, so these costs must be considered along with this legislation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Executive’s FY08 budget recommendation includes \$50 thousand as an expansion initiative in the Indian Affairs department's budget for a Tribal Reburial Grounds for the reburial of unmarked Native American human remains and funerary objects. In addition, the Executive recommendation includes a \$50 thousand special nonrecurring appropriation for the Indian Affairs Department to designate a reburial ground for unmarked human remains.

Amendments to Senate Bill 673 duplicates by Senate Indian and Cultural Affairs Committee made minor changes that proposed legislation, thereby clarifying its intention. The intent of the changes was such that the relationship to discovered remains is more clearly defined. The method of discovering remains was expanded to include many scenarios.

Senate Bill 673 is now parallel with both HB73/aHCPAC and SB581/aSIAC.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If enacted, the LFC recommends that the Cultural Affairs department submit a plan for program evaluation with specific program goals and criteria for assessing the effectiveness and provide suggested outputs, outcomes and performance measures to evaluate the performance of state government programs as prescribed in the Accountability in Government Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Senate Bill 673 mandates the Department of Cultural Affairs to organize a collaborative working group to recommend and promulgate rules and procedures for New Mexico Administrative Code. A significant effort in collaborating with other state and federal entities is necessary in conjunction with enactment of this legislation.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The proposed legislation enacts a new section of Chapter 18, Article 6 NMSA 1968 such that the “Reburial Grounds Act” is created.

A second section of Chapter 18, Article 6 NMSA 1968 defining relevant terms is provided.

A third section of Chapter 18, Article 6 NMSA 1968 provides that, with the exception of remains claimed by descendent groups, all historic and pre-historic remains discovered in New Mexico will be interned at the site.

A fourth section of Chapter 18, Article 6 NMSA 1968 directing the Cultural Affairs department to facilitate the selection of a parcel of state or federal land for the purposes of creating the reburial grounds.

Under this proposed section, the department is responsible for creating a working group by September 1st, 2007. The composition of the group must include representatives from the Cultural Affairs department, the Indian Affairs department, and the tribal-state workgroup on repatriation and burial places. The working group would then be tasked with developing rules and procedures for reburial. By December 30th, 2008 the working group would need to promulgate rules with the state historic preservation officer, and ultimately accept the first remains for re-internment by July 1st, 2009.

Lastly, the legislation mandates that map plattes are kept up to date and confidential pursuant to Section 18-6-11.1 NMSA 1978.

DUPLICATION

Senate Bill 673 duplicates HCPAC amended House Bill 73 (HB73a/HCPAC), including minor language amendments applied to HB 73 in that committee. Additionally, as in HB73a/HCPAC, the provision requiring reburial procedures for “private” collections is omitted.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

If Senate Bill 673 is not enacted, the remains of historic and pre-historic people will continue to be stored with the Office of Archaeological Studies if they are not claimed by descendent groups.

PD/csd